

DRAFT

Manville Fire District – Minutes August 11 2015

Date of Meeting: Tuesday August 11, 2015

Time of Meeting: 7:00pm

Place of Meeting: Manville Fire Department

112 Old Main Street

Manville, RI 02838

1. Pledge of Allegiance – Lead by Chairman Lake @ 7:00 pm

2. Roll Call of Officers-

Present – Warden Ron McKenna

Warden James Akers

Chairman Bob Lake

Warden Jerry St Germain

Warden Paul McKeon

Also Present -

Deputy Chief Michael Forget

Clerk Lee Lamothe

3. Motion to approve previous meeting minutes

Warden St Germain makes a motion to accept the minutes of the June 9, 2015 Special Meeting as presented, seconded by Warden McKeon.

Approved 5-0-0

Warden St Germain makes a motion to accept the minutes of the July 14, 2015 Regular Meeting as presented, seconded by Warden McKeon. Approved 5-0-0

4. Reports

a.Chairman Report & Communications – Chairman Lake included a copy of the most recent OMA complaint of April 21, 2015 in the meeting packet. This complaint is a recapitulation of prior complaints by Desmaris and McBurney.

He reports that the utility truck is in progress and reports have been received regularly. We should be getting a report on the truck delivery date soon.

b.Treasurer and Tax Collector Report – Treasurer McKenna says that the fire district has collected 93.7% of the taxes it is owed for 2014. The fire district bases its budget on a 95% collection rate and we will fall short this year. Delinquencies total \$103,067.86. There are 84 delinquent properties. The MFD has more delinquencies now than we did at this time last year. The Treasurer has also included a statement of Assets which has a balance of \$635,204.65 for August 2015. He presents his Budget/Expense report which shows we have expended \$280,249.71 from the current fiscal year budget. Legal bills for 2015 are higher than expected. We have now exceeded the budget by over \$11,000.

Motion by Warden St Germain to accept the Treasurers/Tax Collectors Report, Second by Warden McKeon. Approved 4-0-1 (McKenna abstained)

c. Chief's report – Deputy Chief Michael Forget delivers the report. There were 57 runs – 45 in Manville, 11 in Albion, and 1 in

Cumberland. We averaged 6.2 firefighters per call. There were a total of 3 nights of training in tactics and EMS.

Chairman Lake asked Chief/Deputy to provide an overview of the major fire event earlier this month. Deputy advised our crews performed flawlessly. The MFD first responders to the 2:05 am call were relatively new to fighting fires and they had the fire contained within five minutes. This shows our training program is effective. Mike said several other departments commented on how well our men performed. All agreed that they did a great job. It was also noted by Deputy that Chief was first on the scene and called for mutual-aid due to the amount of fire coming from the building. When the other companies arrived the fire was knocked down and under control. The mutual aid ladder trucks (2) did respond as requested, it took approximately 10-12minutes for them to arrive. Comment from Warden St Germain, good thing it was not a four story tenement and occupants got out without injury.

Motion made by Warden St. Germain to accept the report as written, seconded by Warden McKeon. Call for vote. Approved 5-0-0.

d. Auditors report – No Report

5. Payment of Bills

Chairman Lake reads all the bills out loud. The total is \$5,927.39. There is a question by Warden McKeon about the bill from

Cyber-comm. He questions what E1 is using for a radio. The Deputy Chief answers that they are using portables. A motion to accept and pay bills was made by Warden St Germain and seconded by Warden McKeon. Approved 5-0-0.

6. Income

Total of \$30.00 this month, this was for a smoke detector inspection. A motion was made by Warden St Germain and seconded by Warden Akers to approve the income report. Approved 5-0-0.

7. Old Business

RISE report on building energy saving upgrades. The Deputy Chief states that the upgrades have been completed without any issues or concerns. New LED lighting provides more light for less energy throughout the building using our existing light fixtures.

8. New Business

a. Agenda for the Annual Meeting: The Chair says that the annual meeting is coming up. If anyone has a desired agenda item they should bring it to his attention as soon as possible.

b. Budget workshop/meeting: The Chair says that this meeting will be posted in case anyone wants to attend.

c. Vehicle Tax Collections and possible resolution for the annual tax meeting. The Chair turns this over to Tax Collector/Treasurer McKenna because he has been the one working on it. A motor vehicle tax list summary is included by the Tax Collector. He says that most of the taxes on vehicles are based on cars with a very small actual value. The tax exceeds value of the vehicle. People who can least

afford it pay the highest tax rate because of the \$30 minimum bill. Tax Collector McKenna proposes that due to the difficulty collecting the car tax, that the MFD consider eliminating the vehicle tax. By allocating \$25,000 from the Capital Money Market Account and committing \$25,000 from the 2014 delinquent real estate accounts we could cover the change. There is a motion to accept this and have Tax Collector McKenna draft a resolution for submission to the taxpayers at the Annual meeting. Motion by Warden McKeon, and seconded by Warden St Germain. Approved 4-0-1 (McKenna)

d. Policy regarding payments from a tax sale property. This is a request by Warden McKenna. He states that we do not have a formal policy on how to deal with payments for a tax sale property. We need a policy to address delinquent taxpayers. Some taxpayers only pay one year of their back taxes in order to stop the tax sale. The Tax Collector is requesting that we change our policy to say that all delinquent taxes must be paid in full in order to avoid a tax sale. He also reads the entire policy for the record. There is some discussion by the Chair about increasing the fees listed by the Tax Collector in the policy. The Tax Collector says that we need to be careful that we just break even. The Chair withdraws his comment. There is a motion to approve this policy as it is presented by Warden St Germain and a second by Warden McKeon. Approved 4-0-0 (McKenna)

9. Public Comment

Paul Armstrong asked if the vehicle tax elimination will create a problem each year that we will have to dig into our surplus. He is

worried that this can become a burden on the home owners. The Chairman advises him that the budget meeting would be an appropriate time for that discussion. Mr. Armstrong then asks if we are still in possession of RI License Plate #2? Lake advised the question has been answered multiple times in writing through our attorneys already. The Chief plans to utilize the plate on the new utility truck.

10. Motion to Adjourn

Motion to adjourn by Warden McKeon at 7:56 PM, Seconded by Warden St.Germain. Approved 5-0-0

Date Agenda Posted SOS: 08/06/15

Date of Meeting: 08/11/2015

Posted : SOS,MFD Station, Manville Post Office, Town Hall

Draft Minutes posted on SOS: 8/20/15

Minutes submitted to/ and approved by Board:

Approved Minutes posted on SOS:

____Bob Lake_____

____Lee Lamothe_____

Chairman

Clerk